

FIFTH EU-CHILE ASSOCIATION COMMITTEE
BRUSSELS, 5 DECEMBER 2007
JOINT PRESS RELEASE

1. The fifth Association Committee established by the European Union-Chile Association Agreement was held on 5 December 2007, in Brussels, Belgium.
2. The Chilean Delegation was chaired by the Vice-Minister of Foreign Affairs, Ambassador Alberto Van Klaveren. The Delegation from the European Union (EU) was led by Mr. João Aguiar Machado, Deputy Director General of External Relations responsible for Latin America and Asia. The Presidency of the EU was represented by Mr. Jorge Cabral, Deputy Director General of Political Affairs of the Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Portugal, and by Ms Helena Coutinho, Chairperson of the COLAT working group.
3. The meeting provided an opportunity for a very fruitful exchange of views on the implementation of the EU-Chile Association Agreement, one of the most ambitious agreements that the EU has with a third country. In this context the Parties discussed issues of mutual interest in three areas: political dialogue, co-operation and trade.
4. Within the framework of the political dialogue, an area of paramount importance in our relationship, representatives of both Parties noted their satisfaction with the excellent level of bilateral relations and discussed the developments in both the EU and the LAC region, the ways to improve coordination in the United Nations Fora on Human Rights and the preparation for the next EU-LAC Summit in Lima.
5. The Parties acknowledged that the Association Agreement between EU and Chile has proved to be a useful tool to enhance mutual understanding and consultations. The Parties agreed to look for new ways to enhance the Political Dialogue and to transform it into a more effective instrument that reflects a new phase in our political relationship.
6. Regarding development co-operation, the Parties acknowledged that overall bilateral co-operation is very positive. As regards the new Country Strategy Paper 2007-2013 for Chile (CSP), the Commission provided information on the co-operation programming in the three selected priority areas: social cohesion, innovation and competitiveness and higher education. The Commission expects that the implementation of the projects will start early in 2008.
7. As regards the Chilean request on triangular co-operation (art.50 of the AA), the Commission took note of Chile's interest to look at practical ways to undertake some triangular co-operation activities. The Commission will examine it further with

a view in particular to promote and give visibility to successful projects through ad hoc triangular activities.

8. The Commission welcomed Chilean request to participate in the Competitiveness and Innovation programme (CIP) from DG Enterprise, and invited Chile to identify the parts of the programme that would interest it most.
9. The Parties took note of the strengthened level of scientific co-operation as reflected in the recent visit of Research Commissioner Potočnik in Chile and the results of the 3rd EU-Chile Steering Committee on Science and Technology. Progress achieved in this area in the framework of the EU-Chile Science and Technology agreement lays the foundations for developing future co-operation in shared priority research areas and in synergy with other policies and regional co-operation.
10. The Parties acknowledged that the EU-Chile sectoral dialogues, such as the ongoing dialogue on employment and social policies, represent a new approach that leads to a strengthening and deepening of our bilateral relationship. The Parties took note that the next sectoral dialogue is scheduled to take place during 2008 in the areas of pension schemes and employment policies.
11. Regarding the EU/LAC Forum on Social Cohesion that took place in Santiago in last September, the Commission congratulated Chile for the excellent organisation of the Forum. This was the first preparatory event of the EU - Latin America and Caribbean Lima Summit (May 2008). The Parties agreed that the level of participation and dialogue at the Forum were extremely positive.
12. Chile informed the Commission of the state of play regarding Chile's expected decision on the adoption of the Digital TV standard. The Commission reiterated the importance for the EU of the adoption of the European standard, and the role it would play to enhance the bilateral relations with Chile.
13. The Parties confirmed their intentions to further strengthening the air transport relations between the EU and Chile, including the possibility of more ambitious air transport negotiations. Chile reiterated its interest to negotiate an open aviation agreement with the EU.
14. On trade issues, the Parties reported on the various trade-related committee meetings that have taken place recently, namely: the Special Committee on standards, technical regulations and conformity assessment; and the Special Committee on customs co-operation and rules of origin.
15. The Parties took stock of the achievements and development of the Trade part of the Association Agreement, four years after its entry into force. They acknowledged that there is an increasing dynamism in the bilateral trade relations.
16. The Parties took note of the state of play and perspectives of the ongoing negotiations on the evolution clause on agriculture and processed agricultural

products, as well as of possible future negotiations regarding the review clauses on services, including movement of natural persons.

17. The Parties exchanged views on the Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) and on the dialogue on this issue that took place in October in Santiago. They discussed the next steps that they intend to take on this important theme.
18. Finally, it was agreed that the sixth meeting of the Association Committee would be held in Santiago de Chile in November or December 2008.